

IN THE CLAIMS:

4. (once amended) The fiber rendering apparatus of claim 3, wherein  
 $X_{n+1} = FA_n \cdot X_n$ ,

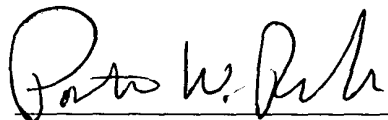
where  $X_{n+1}$  represents an opacity at a neighbor point,  $FA_n$  represents an FA value at the immediately preceding neighbor point or tracking start point, and  $X_n$  represents an opacity thereat.

**Remarks**

Please enter the foregoing preliminary amendment prior to examination of the present application. Claims 1-6 are now pending in this application. Applicant submits that this Amendment adds no new matter.

Submitted herewith are marked up Claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R.  
1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Respectfully Submitted,



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